

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested. By this amendment, claims 1, 7, 9-12, 18-20, 24-26 and 29 have been amended, and claim 6 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. New claims 30-33 have been added to more fully recite the subject matter of the instant application. Applicant submits that no new matter has been added, and notice to that effect is solicited. Currently, claims 1-5 and 7-33 are pending of which claims 1, 12, 18, and 24 are independent. The Examiner is thanked for the indication of allowability of claims 6-17, if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of their parent claims and any intervening claims. Claims 1 and 12 have been amended to include the subject matter of former dependent claim 6 and original independent claim 1, respectively. Note that new dependent claims 30-33 are similar to dependent claims 2-5, but depend from claim 12. Applicant submits that claims 1-5, 7-17, and 30-33 are in condition for allowance, and formal notice of such is solicited.

Claims 18-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, for allegedly failing to comply with the enablement requirement. Claims 18-29 have been amended to more clearly state the claimed invention as the Examiner comments that a method claim cannot depend from an apparatus claim. Thus, Applicant submits that claims 18-29 are now in proper form and in condition for allowance. Note that the essential subject matter of the allowable claim 12 has been incorporated into independent claim 18, and the subject matter of allowable claim 6 has been incorporated into independent claim 24. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection and formal notice of the allowability of claims 18-29 is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-5 were stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,381,170 to Peinz (Peinz '170). Applicant submits that this rejection is moot as to claims 1-5 in view of the above-noted amendments to the claims. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that all pending claims, claims 1-5 and 7-33 are in condition for allowance, and formal notice of such is solicited. If the Examiner has any

questions or comments, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned at the number listed below.

Filed concurrently herewith is an excess claim fee in the amount of \$350.00 for payment of one (1) additional independent claim in excess of the three (3) previously paid for and three (3) claims in excess of the twenty-nine (29) previously paid for. Applicant hereby petitions for any extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee for such extension is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 05-0460.

Respectfully submitted,



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